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National Agricultural
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West Virginia Field Office

in cooperation with

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RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia – Commercial red meat production during March 2018 totaled 500,000 pounds. This was up 1 percent from March 2017. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 619,000 pounds live weight, up 2 percent from March 2017. Cattle slaughter totaled 600 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight was up 5 pounds from the previous year, at 1,059 pounds.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 176,000 pounds live weight, down 7 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 600 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 5 pounds from the previous year, at 282 pounds.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

United States – Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.52 billion pounds in March, down slightly from the 4.54 billion pounds produced in March 2017.

Beef production, at 2.20 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.70 million head, down 2 percent from March 2017. The average live weight was up 8 pounds from the previous year, at 1,358 pounds.

Veal production totaled 6.1 million pounds, 6 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 43,700 head, down 3 percent from March 2017. The average live weight was down 7 pounds from last year, at 240 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.30 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 10.7 million head, up slightly from March 2017. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year, at 286 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.2 million pounds, was up 3 percent from March 2017. Sheep slaughter totaled 201,600 head, 3 percent above last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, unchanged from March a year ago.

January to March 2018 commercial red meat production was 13.2 billion pounds, up 3 percent from 2017. Accumulated beef production was up 3 percent from last year, veal was up slightly, pork was up 4 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 3 percent.

March 2017 contained 23 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 4 Saturdays. March 2018 contained 22 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

Note: Percent changes are based on unrounded data.

CATTLE ON FEED

United States – Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.7 million head on April 1, 2018. The inventory was 7 percent above April 1, 2017. This is the second highest April 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. The inventory included 7.54 million steers and steer calves, up 4 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 64 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.19 million head, up 14 percent from 2017.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.92 million head, 9 percent below 2017. Net placements were 1.85 million head. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 315,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 285,000

head, 700-799 pounds were 530,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 531,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 185,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 75,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.84 million head, 4 percent below 2017.

Other disappearance totaled 67,000 head during March, 20 percent above 2017.

2017 COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Charleston, West Virginia – Red meat production in commercial plants (commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton) totaled 7.9 million pounds during 2017. This was up 8 percent from 2016 production. The number of federally and non-federally inspected slaughter plants totaled 34 on January 1, 2018, up 1 plant from January 1, 2017.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2017 totaled 9,500 head, up 12 percent from 2016. Total live weight was 9.77 million pounds, up 12 percent from 2016. The average live weight was 1,027 pounds, down 2 pounds from 2016.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter during 2017 totaled 9,400 head, up 2 percent from 2016. Total live weight was 2.72 million pounds, up 4 percent from 2016. The average live weight was 289 pounds, up 4 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

United States – Total red meat production for the United States totaled 52.1 billion pounds in 2017, 3 percent higher than the previous year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 52.0 billion pounds. On-farm slaughter totaled 87.6 million pounds.

Beef production totaled 26.3 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year. **Veal production** totaled 80.2 million pounds, down 1 percent from last year. **Pork production**, at 25.6 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. **Lamb and mutton production** totaled 150.2 million pounds, down 3 percent from 2016.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2017 totaled 32.2 million head, up 5 percent from 2016, with federal inspection comprising 98.5 percent of the

total. The average live weight was 1,349 pounds, down 14 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 52.9 percent of the total federally inspected cattle slaughter, heifers 27.2 percent, dairy cows 9.4 percent, other cows 8.8 percent, and bulls 1.7 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 512,300 head, 5 percent higher than a year ago with 98.2 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 250 pounds, down 16 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 121.3 million head, 3 percent higher than 2016 with 99.3 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was unchanged from last year, at 282 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 97.2 percent of the total federally inspected hog slaughter.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 2.18 million head, was down 3 percent from the previous year with 88.9 percent by federal inspection. The average live weight was down 1 pound from 2016 at 133 pounds. Lambs and yearlings comprised 94.8 percent of the total federally inspected sheep slaughter.

There were 834 plants slaughtering under federal inspection on January 1, 2018 compared with 814 last year. Of these, 666 plants slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2017 with the 13 largest plants slaughtering 57 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 636 plants, with the 13 largest plants accounting for 59 percent of the total. For calves, 5 of the 190 plants accounted for 72 percent of the total and 2 of the 537 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2017 comprised 38 percent of the total head.

Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, and Texas accounted for 49 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2017, unchanged from 2016.



FIRST QUARTER MILK PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia – Milk production in West Virginia totaled 30 million pounds or 3.5 million gallons during the January - March quarter of 2018. This was down 9 percent from the same period in 2017, but up 1 million pounds or 116,000 gallons from the October - December 2017 quarter. The number of dairy cows averaged 7,000 head, down 1,000 head

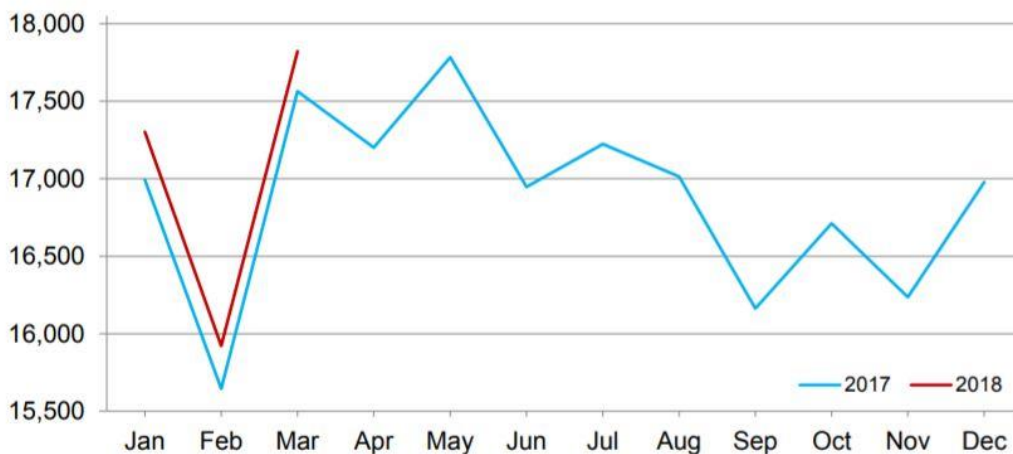
from the same period in 2017, but unchanged from the previous quarter.

United States – Milk production in the United States during the January - March quarter totaled 54.4 billion pounds, up 1.5 percent from the January - March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the United States during the quarter was 9.41 million head, 9,000 head more than the October - December quarter, and 38,000 head more than the same period last year.

Note: A conversion of 8.6 pounds per gallon was used.

Monthly Milk Production – 23 Selected States

Million pounds



PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

Charleston, West Virginia – Corn plantings in West Virginia are expected to total 50,000 acres, unchanged from acres planted in 2017, but up 2 percent or 1,000 acres from 2016.

Winter wheat planted area is estimated at 6,000 acres, down 25 percent or 2,000 acres from 2017, and down 14 percent or 1,000 acres from 2016.

Soybean planted acreage is expected to total 27,000 acres, unchanged from acres planted in 2017, and also unchanged from acres planted in 2016.

All hay acreage harvested is expected to total 570,000 acres, down 3 percent or 18,000 acres from 2017, and down 3 percent or 17,000 acres from 2016.

Note: These estimates were based on results from the March 1, 2018, Agricultural Survey. Forecasted estimates may change as the survey year continues and/or planting intentions by farmers are altered.

United States with 2017 Comparisons

Corn plantings – 88.0 million acres, down 2%.

Oat plantings – 2.72 million acres, up 5%.

Winter wheat planted – 32.7 million acres, up slightly.

All tobacco for harvest – 309,580 acres, down 4%.

Burley tobacco for harvest – 72,900 acres, down 11%.

Soybean plantings – 89.0 million acres, down 1%.

Sorghum plantings – 5.9 million acres, up 5%.

Barley plantings – 2.29 million acres, down 8%.

All hay for harvest – 53.7 million acres, down slightly.

JUNE AREA SURVEY

The West Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service will begin conducting the June Area survey in late May. The June Area survey is one of the largest annual NASS survey projects and provides significant utility for the entire NASS survey program.

The June Area Survey is designed to account for every acre of land, all agricultural activities, and land uses within segment boundaries. Crop acreage, grain stocks, cattle inventory, hog inventory, sheep inventory, poultry inventory, land values, cash rents, farm numbers, and value of sales data are collected. The diverse range of items is needed for direct estimation requirements and sample design needs for projects later in the survey year.

Data collection for the June Area survey is completed entirely by personal interview during the first two weeks of June. Personal interviews must be conducted since operators within the selected segments are not known until significant screening is completed. Also, respondents must examine an aerial photograph to identify each field boundary and report the crop planted. Acreage data refer to the current crop year, while livestock and stocks data refer to June 1.

Results for the June Area survey will be released on June 29, 2018 in the *Acreage* report. This and all NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov. For more information, call the NASS West Virginia Field Office at 1-800-535-7088.

***Thank you in advance for
your participation!***

NEXT ISSUE

Meat Animals Production, Disposition, and Income
Poultry Production and Value
Milk Production, Disposition, and Income

**Census Reminder: It's Not Too Late**

If you have not returned your 2017 Census of Agriculture form by the February 5th deadline, it's not too late to be counted. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), will continue to accept census forms through the spring to get a complete and accurate picture of U.S. agriculture.

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